

# Mel Martinez

## United States Senator • Florida

315 East Robinson Street  
Landmark Center One, Ste 475  
Orlando, Florida 32801



(407) 254-2573 Phone  
(407) 423-0941 Fax

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### **General Information**

The procedure for selection of nominees for service academies varies with each Congressman and Senator. Service academy nominations by Senator Martinez are handled by our **Orlando office**. Please feel free to contact that office should you have any questions or need assistance in completing the process. It is your responsibility to ensure your application and all required information is complete and has been received by our office by the **postmark deadline of October 1, 2005**. Please advise those sending recommendations that they **must** meet this deadline. You may call 407-254-2573 and speak with the service academy coordinator to verify all materials and letters of recommendations have been received.

### **Nominating Authority**

Competition for nominations is intense, therefore, we urge you to apply to every nominating authority available to you. Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. United States Senators nominate from applicants in their entire state. United States Representatives nominate from applicants residing in their congressional districts as constituted at the time of their election. Applicants may apply for and receive nominations from both their United States Senators and from their United States Representative. Applicants may also apply to the Vice President of the United States, who can nominate applicants from across the country. An unlimited number of presidential nominations are available for children and legally adopted children of career officer and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces, Active or Reserve, including the Coast Guard. One hundred candidates may be appointed with these nominations each year. A parent in the Reserves must be serving as a member of a reserve component and be credited with at least eight years of service or must be entitled to retired pay except that he or she is not yet sixty years old. Otherwise, the parent must currently be on active duty (other than for training) and have served continuously for at least eight years or have been retired with pay or granted retired or retainer pay. The President may also appoint the children of Medal of Honor winners.

Senator Martinez must submit his nominations to the Service Academy by January 31, 2006. For each vacancy, he will be allowed ten nominations. The final ranking and subsequent appointments will be at the discretion of the academies. Ten alternates will also be submitted for consideration in the event a nomination becomes available through medical disqualification, cancellation or any other reason. The Service Academies notify candidates of their selection by May 1, 2006. The deadline for candidates to respond is May 15, 2005. Alternates will be considered after that date.

### **Service Academy Contact**

With this packet, you have been provided a list of service academies with their contact information. Your **first priority should be to contact the academy of your choice requesting a pre-candidate application**. They will provide for you general information and detailed requirements for admission to their academy.

### **Interview**

Eligible applicants will be required to have one interview. Personal interviews will be conducted on **Monday, November 7, 2005**. Interviews will be held in four locations throughout the state: Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee and Tampa. Your county of residence will determine your interview location. If qualified, you will be notified of the interview time.

**Miami** (Broward, Collier, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, St. Lucie Counties)

**Orlando** (Brevard, Flager, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia Counties)

**Tallahassee** (Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, Washington Counties)

**Tampa** (Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota Counties)

### **Review Board**

After review of the candidate's application, those eligible for interview will be contacted in October to arrange a date, time and place for their interview. Each candidate will be considered on a basis of leadership potential, academic performance, extra-curricular activities, three letters of recommendation, personal interviews and physical fitness. After all interviews are completed, we will have a review board meet to review all candidates' files. After this meeting, the review board will submit their recommendations to Senator Martinez who will then make his recommendations to the each Academy.

### **Status Change**

Please keep in mind that we have numerous candidates applying for nomination. Should your status change at any time, please let us know immediately so we can consider others. You may also wish to continue to pursue the opportunity to attend the college of your choice. The academies suggest that since some of the schools require deposits prior to the date the academies announce their selections, you may wish to proceed with the application process even if you lose your deposit. It is better to have that "insurance" rather than lose the chance to attend the school of your choice.

### **Nomination Requirements**

#### **Residency**

Senator Martinez can only nominate students who are legal residents of the State of Florida. You, or your parents, must claim Florida as your primary residence and/or be registered to vote in Florida. If you have any questions regarding residency, please contact our office.

#### **Application Form**

Please complete the enclosed application form as soon as possible. It is preferred that you send the required information to us as you complete or receive it rather than holding it to submit at one time. Again, it is **your** responsibility to ensure all information is received in a timely manner. Please specify the academy of your choice. If you have multiple choices, please list the order of your preference in the block provided. We urge you to apply to all academies you would consider attending. In some incidences, we may nominate you for your second choice to give you a backup in case you are not accepted by the academy of your first choice. Please be sure to complete pre-candidate application with all academies marked. Your academy choice may be changed any time **prior to the October 1, 2005, postmark deadline.**

#### **Academic Recommendation Form**

This form is to be completed by your high school principal or guidance counselor. After completed it should be returned to us in a *sealed, unopened envelope*. Remind them of the **October 1, 2005, postmark deadline.**

#### **Numerical Class Rank/Size**

Please provide your numerical class rank and the approximate size of your class. This information **MUST** be included in the recommendation form completed by your guidance counselor or principal. Should your school not rank students please have the guidance counselor or principal provide an accurate estimate.

## **Transcript**

Ask your principal or guidance counselor for an official transcript which includes your course listing, current GPA, grades, class rank and SAT/ACT test scores. Your final junior grades must be listed on the official transcript. The *transcript should be mailed to us by them in a sealed, unopened envelope*. A report card is not eligible.

NOTE: Minimum SAT and ACT scores must be met by the postmarked deadline of October 1, 2005 to be eligible for an interview.

### **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

SAT	580 Verbal	560 Math
ACT	24 English	25 Math

### **UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**

SAT	560 Verbal	530 Math
ACT	24 English	23 Math

### **UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**

SAT	580 Verbal	590 Math
ACT	24 English	26 Math

### **UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY**

SAT	550 Verbal	530 Math
ACT	23 English	23 Math

**NOTE:** No congressional nomination is required for entrance into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

## **Letters of Recommendation**

Have **three** people who know you well, a minister, coach, scoutmaster, teacher or employer to write a recommendation letter for you. These may be mailed by those writing the recommendation, but, again *you* must verify it has been received and is **postmarked prior to October 1, 2005**.

Please keep in mind that one of the main characteristics the service academies are looking for is **leadership**. While grades are very important, academic recommendations are not the only reflection of your character. Therefore, we would appreciate your being very selective in the three individuals you ask to write your recommendation letters. We will accept only the first three recommendation letters we receive. These three letters are in addition to the recommendation by the guidance counselor or principal who completes your academic recommendation form.

## **Standardized Test Results**

You must take either the ACT or SAT prior to September in order to forward the results by the October 1, 2005 postmark deadline. If you prefer for ACT to forward the report directly to our office, please provide them with the ACT code 7117. The SAT code is 5287.

## **Medical Requirements**

A service academy medical examination must be passed before a candidate can receive an appointment. The examination is scheduled and reviewed by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB). Once taken, the examination may be used for service academies and four-year ROTC scholarship programs. The *most frequently encountered problem areas* include:

Visual Acuity:	All candidates accepted shall have an uncorrected visual acuity no poorer than 20/400 in either eye and must be correctable to 20/20 in each eye.
Color Vision:	Color blindness, complete or partial, is cause for disqualification.
Asthma:	Any history of asthma is also cause for disqualification.

### **Eligibility**

Each applicant for nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1, 2005:

*Age:* Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
*Citizenship:* Must be a United States citizen and a legal resident of Florida  
*Marital Status:* Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents

### **Essay**

Please provide a **one-page** essay briefly stating the reasons you want to attend the academy of your choice.

### **Photograph**

Please provide a recent photograph of yourself and attach to the application form in the space provided.

### **Deadline**

Send all required information **postmarked no later than October 1, 2005** to:

Office of Senator Mel Martinez  
315 East Robinson Street  
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<b>September</b>	Have successfully taken the ACT/SAT test.
<b>October 1, 2005</b>	All paperwork has been mailed, i.e. application, transcripts, letters of recommendation, essay.
<b>November 7, 2005</b>	Interview for select applicants
<b>November 19, 2005</b>	Review board will meet to review eligible candidates' files.
<b>January 31, 2006</b>	Senator's deadline for submitting nominations.

**Please Note:** Graduation from a Service Academy obligates you to serve five years of active duty.

### **Checklist for Candidates:**

- ☐ **Application/Recent photograph**
- ☐ **ACT/SAT Test Scores**
- ☐ **Transcripts**
- ☐ **Recommendation form from Principal or Guidance Counselor**
- ☐ **Letters of Recommendation (3)**
- ☐ **Essay (1) page**
- ☐ **Interview Scheduled**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:** \_\_\_\_\_